

the bullet

mary washington college

p.o. box 1115, fredericksburg, virginia



Saul
Alinsky:
the
practical,
realistic
radical

Commission wavers over pot legislation

A presidential pot commission, reporting on the results of its year-long studies, last Wednesday recommended what its critics called a legal enigma. Poised between an outright condemnation and a flat condemnation of marijuana use, the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuses released a study which called for a double standard in prosecution for use of the drug. At the same time, it destroyed numerous popular misconceptions about its effects.

Apparently influenced by results of national surveys which showed that 24 million Americans have tried pot, and 8.3 million are currently users, the report urged the Administration and the federal and state governments to make it permissible in the "privacy of the home" while it would remain officially illegal. Federal and state statutes, it said, should keep stringent punishment on the books against the sale or possession of over an ounce of grass, against growing it independently, and against its use in public, with police given the power to impound any they find in public places.

All of the penalties, said Commission Chairman Raymond P. Shafer, are aimed at "discouraging" pot smoking in the United States. The commission, he stated in a press conference Wednesday night, found no sign that smoking in moderation is the stepping-stone to harder drugs, or that it results in an aggressive or criminal pattern of behavior, or even that it is bodily harmful.

But because it is mind-bending, said Shafer, marijuana has the potential for harm. He emphasized that long-term scientific studies of its effects are not yet completed.

Since its cumulative effects are still unknown, Shafer said, smokers should be discouraged by law. "We don't want the sanction and approval given to this psychotropic substance only to find later on, as we have with tobacco and alcohol, that we shouldn't have . . . We unanimously agree that marijuana use is not a desirable behavior, and we agree that society should discourage its use."

"Nevertheless, we feel that, placed in proper perspective with other social problems, citizens should not be criminalized or jailed merely for private possession or use."

Transfers facilitated

Mary Washington College has entered into agreements with Ferrum Junior College and Germanna Community College to ease the transfer of students from those two-year institutions to Mary Washington.

The agreements, thought to be the first of their kind between a four-year state institution and two-year schools, stipulate that Mary Washington will accept transfer students from either of these two schools who have successfully followed specific college parallel transfer programs.

In both cases, a transferring student would have to have attained a 2.5 cumulative grade point average or higher on all work undertaken on the collegiate level, and would have to have the recommendation of the appropriate official at their respective school. The agreements further indicate that a student with an average between 2.0 and 2.5 will be considered for admission upon receipt of an explanatory recommendation from the appropriate official.

Acceptable parallel programs at Ferrum would include associate degree programs in liberal arts, education, science and mathematics, and music. At Germanna Community College, associate degree programs in liberal arts, pre-teacher education and science would be acceptable.

For those students accepted under these conditions, the College would agree to accept all credit at face value; would matriculate the student with junior standing, and apply the transfer credits to the area, diversification, and elective requirements of the Mary Washington program; would provide an equal opportunity with other transfer applicants for financial assistance; and would provide dormitory accommodations if requested.

The agreements, which would remain in effect for a three-year period, represent an effort on the part of Mary Washington College to anticipate an increasing number of qualified two-year transfer students seeking admission to four-year institutions.

Shafer did say, however, that some members of the commission had tried grass during the study because they felt unable to evaluate it without having tried it. The others felt that it might prejudice them, so refrained, Shafer said. He refused to give the names or how many of the commission had smoked marijuana in the course of their work.

Created by Congress, the commission held public hearings in Chicago, San Francisco, and Washington during the year it studied marijuana. In addition, it sponsored 50 research projects, and travelled to colleges to discuss grass with students. Its members, nine of them appointed by President Nixon, included a psychiatrist, four professors, a hospital director, and the producer of Sesame Street, the sole woman on the commission. Four members came from Congress, where two were picked by the Speaker of the House and two by the President of the Senate.

Both Senators, Jacob Javits of New York and Harold Hughes of Iowa, stated that they favored removing criminal penalties on nonprofit sales of

grass, banning the police confiscation of any they found in public, and allowing a user to escape sentencing for possessing more than an ounce of marijuana "for his personal use."

Both Representatives, on the other hand, opposed relaxing penalties for use of the drug. Paul G. Rogers of Florida and Tim Lee Carter of Kentucky favored civil fines for the possession of grass.

President Nixon stated last May that if the commission recommended legalization of pot, he would not follow through in his own policy. Federal and state statutes, he said, are "a matter which I do think is open to national recommendation with regard to more uniform standards." And in a half-hour talk with Nixon Tuesday night, Shafer said that although the President was aware of the major recommendations of the commission, he "purposely avoided" talking about them.

As the report was released Wednesday, a press secretary at the White House stated that "The President still opposes the legalization of marijuana."

Goddard College educational policy

(CPS) Long considered a maverick among institutions of higher education, Goddard College, a small private school in the woodlands of north-central Vermont, has given notice that it still has no intention of submitting to the branding iron of conventionality. Effective September, 1972, their entire faculty will resign their roles as "teachers" for the new positions of "master learners" or "professional craftsmen." The emphasis for everyone on campus will be one of simply learning.

The move rests upon the assumption that learning is essentially a self-oriented activity and forms the core for a three-year college-wide experiment upon this issue. Correspondingly, the experiment questions the assumptions that teaching is either possible or desirable, necessary or useful.

Faculty members, it has long been observed, find that they learn from students as often as vice versa. The experiment seeks to capitalize upon this common ability to learn by replacing traditional "learning from" situations with those oriented towards "learning with." Consequently, those termed "students" will be recognized as either "amateur learners" or "apprentice craftsmen."

The idea for the experiment is contained, in part, in these words of Carl Rogers: "I have come to feel that the only learning which significantly influences behavior is self-discovered, self-appropriated learning. Such self-discovered learning, truth that has been personally appropriated and assimilated in experience, cannot be directly communicated to another."

Traditional teaching, Rogers argues, "seems to cause the individual to distrust his own experience, and to stifle significant learning." Describing the outcome of teaching as either "unimportant" or "hurtful," Rogers concludes, "I realize that I am only interested in being a learner, preferably learning things that matter, that have some significant influence on my behavior."

Every form of activity in the Goddard community, be it class course, independent study, or field project, is to have a portion of time reserved and specifically devoted to discussion, analysis, and evaluation of what is being learned, how, and why. Weekly, monthly, and yearly evaluations will develop out of these smaller sessions in order to clarify a larger perspective on the experiment.

Finally, in 1975, a "culminating study" will be prepared for publication. By that time the college should be in a position to answer, with documentary evidence of three year's experience, the question of whether the role of "teacher" is necessary for such learning as occurs at the college level.

Soul food dinner

You've heard of it, you've seen it, you may have even have smelled it; but have you ever tasted it? The 'Soul Food Dinner' held last Saturday by the Fredericksburg chapter of the Virginia Council on Human Relations gave the average citizen a chance to actually sample some traditional Black cuisine. This was just one of the many services through which this interracial group hopes to promote understanding and education between the races.

Four meals which are generally considered favorites among Blacks were prepared by the 40 chapter members at Shiloh New Light Baptist Church. The public could either buy the meals there or have them delivered to their homes. Entrees including fried chicken, country ham, pig's feet and chitterlings served with greens, corn bread and home made desserts. Local merchants donated food and the profits went to support the state council and various local projects.

The Human Relations Council was established about 25 years ago through the efforts of local churches and some prominent citizens. As the only interracial civic type organization in Fredericksburg, it is responsible for several notable accomplishments here, according to Mrs. Marianne Baitis, a day student at M.W.C. who is an active member. The group instigated and actively sponsors Hazel Hill, the only federally endorsed, low cost housing development in the area. It also founded and maintains the Children's House, a nursery which was the first and, until the recent day care center at M.W.C., only integrated nursery in the area. When asked about community reaction to the organization, Mrs. Baitis cited some minor problems such as the removal of publicity posters but cited no major hostility or resistance.

Exam schedule

Wednesday, May 3—First Semester 1972-73 Registration

Thursday and Friday, May 4 and 5—Reading days. No classes, no examinations

Saturday, May 6—9:00-12:00 noon, Classes scheduled for Track 1; 2:00-5:00 p.m., Classes scheduled for Track A

Monday, May 8—9:00-12:00 noon, Classes scheduled for Track 3; 2:00-5:00 p.m., Classes scheduled for Track B

Tuesday, May 9—9:00-12:00 noon, Classes scheduled for Track 5; 2:00-5:00 p.m., Classes scheduled for Track 7

Wednesday, May 10—9:00-12:00 noon, Classes scheduled for Track 2; 2:00-5:00 p.m., Classes scheduled for Track 4

Thursday, May 11—9:00-12:00 noon, Classes scheduled for Track E; 2:00-5:00 p.m., Classes scheduled for Track 6

Friday, May 12—9:00-12:00 noon, Classes scheduled for Track D; 2:00-5:00 p.m., Classes scheduled for Track F

Saturday, May 13—9:00-12:00 noon, Classes scheduled for Track C; 2:00-5:00 p.m., Classes not otherwise provided for

Monday, May 15—Senior grades due in Registrar's Office by 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 17—All grades due in Registrar's Office by 5:00 p.m.

AGAINST TENURE:

Due Process for All

COLLEGES JAILS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

by Philip G. Ryan

In the debate on tenure it is time for the American Civil Liberties Union to consider the welfare of all sectors of the academic community, not only that of the senior professoriate. A reaffirmation of tenure would serve only to further insulate this group to the detriment of students, younger faculty and society as a whole.

The traditional, on-going debate on tenure has been rather inconclusive. It has never been determined, for example, what effect tenure has upon the quality of teaching or upon the professoriate as the independent conscience of the nation. It is not worthwhile to reiterate these issues at this time. Instead it is necessary to focus on two growing problems affected by tenure: the increased competition for academic appointments and the rising threat to the academic freedom of untenured faculty.

There is a new generation of scholars, more numerous and more outspoken than before. These academics view tenure not as a protection from Joe McCarthy, but as a barrier keeping them out of the profession. Today tenure can hardly be defined as a needed measure of security to make the profession more attractive. Times have changed. There is an oversupply of PhD's flooding the job market. There are few tenured positions available in comparison to the large numbers of young academics seeking work. Already a pattern has emerged where new PhD's are shunted from university to university because there are so few permanent positions. (Often the one hired is the most pliant, the one least likely to cause trouble.) Academic merit should decide who shall fill the positions at the universities, not a rigid tenure system protecting those who have been there the longest. Due to tenure the overriding criterion for filling academic posts is seniority. Like other industries, the university has acquired a "civil service mentality" where time carries more weight than excellence. Only the future can tell what will come of the increasing frustration of younger academics in the face of seniority practices in academia.

The more serious objection to tenure is that it does not provide equal protection of the laws. Because only tenured professors enjoy the complete protection of tenure, other faculty suffer a loss of academic freedom. Often the young faculty member finds himself in a "no-man's land" where he must face his accusers alone. This is an even greater problem today because it is the young faculty member who is most likely to face a challenge to his academic freedom. It is the young academic who is criticized for being too radical, too outspoken, too student-oriented or too "New Left." It has been argued that the impregnable position of the tenured professor enables him to come to the rescue of his younger, vulnerable colleague. It might be argued more convincingly that the senior colleague would fight more vehemently if he felt that he, too, was being threatened by an attack on academic freedom. Instead tenure has created a division of interest within the profession. There is an unfortunate and dangerous development at a time when the academic profession ought to stand together.

Almost by definition tenure downgrades due process protections. It ought to be the goal of one concerned for civil liberties and academic freedom to

support due process for all. To reaffirm support for tenure would reflect badly upon the sincerity of subsequent arguments in favor of due process. Indeed, there is a nagging inconsistency in the case for tenure. On one hand, tenure is defended as the very bastion of academic freedom. On the other, the young academic is told that he too has academic freedom—protected by due process guidelines. Does this mean that all professors are free, but that some are freer than others?

This debate is not without irony. It seems likely that tenure will be reaffirmed by ACLU. It also seems likely that tenure will be abolished gradually by universities in coming years in favor of more flexible, more effective and more equitable procedures.

One young professor is less optimistic. In the Winter 1971-1972 issue of *Change* he wrote:

"The system of college and graduate education is thus deeply entrenched. With the tenured faculty currently in command, the perpetuation of the status quo seems assured. With an overabundance of job applicants, the hiring of docile, amenable young professors is also likely for some time to come. Accordingly, among the masses of graduate students and young faculty it is a time of great frustration and near despair."

Philip Ryan is a political scientist at the City University of New York and a member of the ACLU's Academic Freedom Committee.

THE COMMUNITY OF PRISON

by Afro-American Club

Many of today's penal institutions are in need of crucial changes. Inmates are protesting against their society inside prisons just as youth are protesting to their society outside. A goal must be reached in finding a solution to the unhealthy and animal like situations which exist in many prisons. Society must evaluate why an inmate suffering the oppression of society turns to crime, is admitted to a penal institution, and again live a life of criminal aggression to society. It seems that prison is just a point in a life cycle which many people find themselves passing through on more than one occasion their lifetime.

If prison is to become a part of a cycle for criminals then it is obvious that it is neither a solution for the people inside the prison or for the society which exists outside. It has been brought to the attention of society that many penal establishments go a step beyond punishment and are actually a crippling agency for those forced to serve time. Inmates find themselves handicapped when released into a society for which they have not been prepared.

Reverend Walter E. Fauntroy while speaking to a body of high school students was explaining how mass marches and arrests could help lobbying for Home Rule in the District of Columbia. He proclaimed he would not ask that we submit to massive arrests here in the District because of rumors he had heard pertaining to our jail. Fauntroy stated he would not ask that of D.C. youth because of his understanding that women would lose their womanhood and men would lose their manhood. He was referring to assaults inmates receive from homosexuals.

Health authorities have been known to condone homosexual practices if they are not accompanied by violence or if innocent people are not made to suffer. This is not always the case, however, in the quarters of many inmates. It has been reported that in the Cook County jail of Chicago (referred to as the world's worst jail!) homosexual attacks were the rule rather than the exception, and were carried on with the consent of the guards.

Such acts took place under the rule of barn bosses. This is another system which is being investigated. Under barn boss rule, guards have been known to allow mysterious inmate deaths disguised as suicides. Mobsters with political pull, called celebrity prisoners have been allowed to live in luxury behind bars similar to that which they experienced outside of jail. There have been reports of celebrity prisoners having some refrigerators smuggled into their cells. Less fortunate prisoners have been robbed of their allotted food, money, cigarettes, and other personal utensils. Racial upsets and gang violence have been known to break out. Drug traffic is as prevalent inside prisons as it is in the outside world. Many of the guards who allow these problems in prison are lazy, disloyal, incompetent, and politically appointed. Weak wardens find it hard to contend with incompetent guards who are politically appointed. In some institutions inmates have extremely limited or no access to radios, televisions, or books.

Inmates have been known to complain about poor health conditions. An inmate at Folsom prison in California reported they are given hot water from a watering can because the sinks have only cold water. Other prison inmates have water with rust in it. In some cases plumbing is poor and toilets do not flush. There have been complaints of poor ventilation in cells and drafts. Electrical systems are also dangerous.

Not only are the conditions of the prison dangerous and unhealthy but guards have been known to harm inmates physically. Willard Walker an inmate at Lorton has explained how guards who are members of "goon squads" periodically have "shake downs" for contraband. Walker has given an account of guards spraying chemical mace into his face and other inmates. According to Walker, his hands were pinned behind his back in handcuffs and he was beaten by the guards while held to the floor. His finger was also bent back until it popped.

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Before Saul Alinsky arrived on campus last week as the annual visiting lecturer, many students wondered why the MWC administration would welcome an avowed "agitator," a "professional radical" who had been banned from far more liberal communities than Fredericksburg. It seemed that Alinsky represented everything a college administration would fear; agitation, radicalism, organization, and the advocacy of the power of every individual to control her own life.

Surprisingly however, in visible terms, Alinsky accomplished just the opposite. For two days, he managed to bring many sectors of this campus together in a sense of community. Most who participated in the workshops and classes with Alinsky felt a common bond of general concern for the direction of this country. Faculty, administrators, students, local residents, marines, and outside students all met together and, for a little while, everyone knew that the others really cared.

Ideologically, Alinsky accomplished a great deal more, although for fewer people, than bringing people together. Most of his ideas were ones many had already considered, but he made you believe, not only that they were right, but that they were practical, possible, and absolutely necessary to change this society in order to save it.

When asked, Alinsky addressed himself to specific issues. He called the busing question a "simple issue", explaining that the "major objective of society is equality" and that "you cannot have quality education along with segregation." Alinsky scored the inequalities in education in both the north and south, stating, "Down here the bleeding is in the open. Up there the bleeding is internal. In both cases, the victim dies."

Saul Alinsky relates organization experience, philosophy

Let them call me rebel and welcome, I feel no concern from it; but I should suffer the misery of devils, were I to make a whore of my soul . . .

—Thomas Paine

"Our major value," he continued, "is integrating our school system." "If you are opposed to busing," he concluded, "then come up with another constructive means. If you don't have one, then we bus."

When questioned on the role of women in society, Alinsky stated that women are "more pragmatic, more effective organizers" and that the odds of being selected as a participant in his community training institute (Industrial Areas Foundation) were weighted three to one in favor of women. "When you talk about middle class organization," he commented, "you're really talking about woman power."

Alinsky left no area of the academic community unattacked, but, like his community organization work, he followed all his criticisms with alternative suggestions.

He stated that teachers "represent one of the largest sectors that can act as a catalytic agency to foster change and organization," but that most academic faculty members are nothing more than "tenured turds."

"The real teacher," he explained, "is an outside mental agitator; a real organizer." "We need to find a whole new species of teacher," he said, "ones who can educate."

As for presidents and chancellors of universities, Alinsky commented that none were "particularly politically literate or sophisticated," but merely "selected as good public relations men."

Alinsky heavily criticized many student activists as being "counter-revolutionary." "Some panic and run," he explained, "rationalizing that the system is going to collapse anyway of its own rot and corruption and so they're copping out, going hippie or yippie, taking drugs, anything to escape."

"Others went for pointless sure-loser confrontations," he continued, "so they could fortify their rationalization and say 'Well, we tried and did our part' and then they copped out too. Others, sick with guilt and not knowing where to turn or what to do, went berserk. These were the Weathermen and their like: they took the grand cop-out, suicide. To these I have nothing to say or give but pity."

Students, he explained, are, at a younger and younger age, beginning to view life as a series of alternative decisions, rather than as any absolute ideals. "This is what makes your generation, the most exciting one in a long, long time," he stated.

Alinsky's position on the relative nature of morals and ethics created the largest degree of controversy among students. He cited the Resistance movement against Nazi Germany in World War I as a prime example of the use of so-called "immoral tactics," in order to accomplish a morally higher goal.

"If you have alternatives," he stated, "then you can afford to be moral." "Most people however," he explained, "do the right things for the wrong reasons, then dredge up the right and moral reason to justify their actions."

"If you are truly living and organizing," he concluded, "then you can't afford to worry if your moral hymn remains intact."

Alinsky described his philosophy as one of total commitment to the "values and goals of a free and open society." Such a society is impossible, he explained, where there are large segments of society who are disenfranchised, non-participating, and non-involved." According to Alinsky, such disillusioned segments of society can be found in all classes and in all areas of the country; wherever people are dissatisfied with their lives.

In order to overcome dissatisfaction, stated Alinsky, "in order to have participation, in order to have power, you must organize" around any issue which affects the lives of people, whether that issue be better housing for the poverty-stricken or a meaningful participation in local governments for the middle class.

Organization is "no end unto itself," explained Alinsky, "it is simply that political arrangement for trying to fulfill values which, to us, make life worthwhile." For this reason, he stated, "all my life has been devoted to organization."

In one discussion group, someone asked Saul Alinsky if he feared death. He answered that "when you are constantly in the arena of conflict, you just don't have the time to grow older. Life is conflict and in conflict you're alive; action does not admit age into the arena. Sudden death, yes; gradual age, no."

"What I do fear," he continued, "is the possibility of outliving my life; of becoming useless and ineffective."

"I fear," he concluded, "having to say to death, what Mahatma Gandhi said to his assassin: 'Why are you so late?'"



Photo courtesy of Free-Lance Star

Chem majors refute editorial

To the Editor:

In regard to the Bullet's recent editorial concerning the Dow Chemical Company we would like to state categorically that Dow does not produce napalm nor has it produced napalm for the past 3 years or more. Further we are not "panicked about moving into the real world". We do not need to be reminded by the editorial staff of the Bullet of our moral obligations to ourselves or to society.

We are quite aware of the responsibilities we hold as chemists and as human beings to make the world a better place instead of "developing more effective napalm." If this involves working for Dow's Life Sciences Branch in helping to develop fibers for use in an artificial kidney (one of Dow's most important projects) then that is what we will do. We prefer looking

optimistically toward the future development of products which will improve man's life rather than condemning Dow for its past wrongs.

In our opinion, Dow Chemical is welcome on this campus. Next time you choose to attack the "military-industrial complex job market" get your facts straight and give the students of this campus a little credit for making their own moral judgments.

The Senior Chemistry Majors
Barbara Friedman
Nancy Thornton
Renie Eis
Renata Slijefene
Elaine Whitehurst
Karen Halleran

Dow Chemical strikes back

To the Editor:

Your editorial regarding the Dow Chemical Company which appeared in the February 28, 1972 issue of the BULLET has prompted this reply.

It is a well-known and widely publicized fact that the Dow Chemical Company has not produced Napalm since mid-1969.

Apparently your research staff could benefit from reading some of the material which I have enclosed. You should be aware of the fact that Dow is a recognized leader in that area of environmental control systems; that Dow has developed a biodegradable pesticide which has been selected by the United States Forest Service as a replacement for DDT; that Dow's anti-tuberculosis drug RIFIDIN has been cited

as the "outstanding drug of the year"; that Dow has developed and is marketing an artificial kidney which has been credited with saving five hundred lives in the past year . . . you may wish to list others after reading the literature.

We have always respected the right of anyone to decide to agree or disagree with a position that another may take. We do believe, as I am sure you do, that such a decision can best be made after exposed to both sides of the story.

Sincerely,
James E. Townsend, Jr.
Manager, Midland Location
Recruiting and College
Relations

Divide and Conquer

Lauren Selden, member of the National board of the American Civil Liberties Union, stated in a recent speech that, considering the advancing conservative leaning of the United States Supreme Court, civil libertarians would have to resign themselves to working for change through individual state legislatures.

Last week, the Supreme Court successfully blocked even that channel for that body of citizens who have virtually no legal identities; university students. By striking down residency requirements as discriminatory, the Court took one step forward. But by dismissing the issue of student voting rights, it took two steps backwards.

The suit, brought by five students of various Virginia colleges, sought to establish the fact that the plaintiffs represented all those Virginia students who had either attempted to vote in their college communities and were refused or those, having previous knowledge of official position of the local registration. The Court ruled that such an issue could not represent a class action, that no group of students could protest the discrimination against themselves as well as their fellow students, that every student who wishes to vote in their college community must fight their own endless battle through the courts of Virginia.

It is obvious why many communities would frown on student local voting. After all, in small cities like Fredericksburg, a college population could heavily influence the outcome of any election. But these are many of the same people who score the past tradition of an academic "ivory tower" existence; an existence or attitude that places the college student above the local population. Many talk about the civic responsibility of today's student. But when those same students finally come down from that tower and decide to accept those responsibilities, they are blocked in any form of effectiveness.

Sure, you can still register, be turned down, hire an attorney, and start that futile court battle. And maybe, in a year, if you win, Fredericksburg will be graced by one more interested student vote. And maybe by the time that Delegate Benjamin Woodbridge is running for his fiftieth re-election on an anti-student, anti-faculty, anti-free speech, anti-MWC platform, a significant number of students may be able to legally do something about it. That is if you still have the energy, after all those court battles, to throw those little levers in the voting booths.

It seems that the judicial system insists on identifying all students, no matter what the case, as an extension of their parents. If it isn't bad enough that a college administration gets a kick out of playing "in loco parentis," now the state wants to get into the game too.

So 18-year olds can vote. So big deal. All it means is that now they have to travel all over the country trying to find a place to do it.

By its decision to refuse to allow the five plaintiffs to represent all other students in similar situations, the Supreme Court has proved that it has learned one effective military lesson from history. Its called divide and conquer.

The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the College or the student body, nor are opinions expressed in signed articles and columns necessarily those of the editor or all members of the editorial board.

Signed letters to the editor are invited from all readers.

The BULLET will print all letters within the limits of space and subject to the laws of libel.

Letters should be brought to the BULLET office no later than Thursday before the Monday of publication.

The BULLET reserves the right to edit all contributions for grammatical and technical errors.

Subscriptions are \$4.00 per year. Write The BULLET, Box 1115, College Station, Fredericksburg, Va. 22401.

crossfire

Class studies dining hall policy

As students in Mr. Donald Byrd's Human Environment class, we were concerned with alternative food service plans, believing that many students were dissatisfied with the present system. At present, students are paying room and board fees together, without the option of separating the two. Under the existing plan, students tend to feel that they are paying for meals they do not eat. Our purpose was to research alternative plans. We investigated the feasibility of a meal ticket program and the separation of room and board fees.

We met with Mr. Paul Robison, Director of Food Service, and discussed the possibility of the aforementioned plans. He was very cooperative and said that he would approve of any plan the students wanted. Students continually voice their disapproval with the system of paying for meals at the dining hall; however, because they are unaware of the true facts behind this system.

We pay \$429 per semester for room and board, which includes the nominal fees for laundry, infirmary, etc. Each day our raw food costs per student, fluctuate between \$1.15 and \$1.40. During a short month (i.e., when we have a vacation in the middle of the month) the prices rise. The cafeteria plans on a certain amount of students attending each meal. On weekdays, this figure is quite standard. On weekends, however, it is more difficult to estimate. The cafeteria does not plan for students to attend twenty-one meals a week; therefore, we are not paying to eat every meal served at Seacobeck. We are paying for the amount of meals that the majority of students would eat on a seven day basis. Of course, some students will exceed this limit, while others will not meet it.

Possibly a meal ticket system would eliminate these minorities. But in the long run, this system would pose problems for all. For example, under this plan the meal ticket would have a specific value affixed to it; therefore, the amount of food per person would be limited. This would eliminate multiple main-dishes, side-dishes, and deserts.

In addition, the student would no longer be permitted to carry out food (i.e., ice-cream, milk, cereal, etc.). The ultimate result of this system would be a decrease in the volume of students eating at the dining hall. This would cause the operational overhead of the cafeteria to rise and in turn increase individual meal rates.

The only other alternative would be to buy meals on a cash basis. Needless to say, the problems accompanying this plan would make it impossible to implement such a program on this campus.

After speaking with Mr. Robison, the general consensus of our group was that our present system was most economical for the majority. This plan, however, is not flawless. The college requires that if you are a residential student you must pay cafeteria fees. It is our belief that if a student, who, for various reasons, does not want to eat in the dining hall, the fee should be optional. Therefore, room and board fees should be separated, thus making this option available.

At random, we polled a sample of the student body to obtain their views on the existing plan and the possible separation of room and board fees. The results form an equal representation of each class and show that 77 per cent are not satisfied with the existing plan. The majority eats six to ten meals per five-day week and zero to three meals per weekend. Dinner is the most attended. 78 per cent of the students are in favor of a separation of fees. 47 per cent said that if they had the option, they would not use the facilities at all. It was noted that this plan would be offered only with parental consent. We feel, however, that this percentage is not entirely accurate, due to the disadvantages and problems of managing one's meals (i.e., lack of kitchen facilities, expense, and general inconvenience).

We feel that this poll supports our prior conclusion and we intend to take these results to Mr. Michael Houston in hopes of acquiring the option of separate room and board fees.

Inside and outside prisons

continued from page 3

After being confined to an isolation cell where he was stripped of clothing and forced to sit on bare springs of a bunk for five days, Walker was taken to D.C. General Hospital. He returned to Lorton reformatory the same day and was taken back to the hospital five days later on February 28 for surgery. Mr. Walker plans to file a lawsuit against Lorton officials. The Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights is already charging Lorton with violation of inmates' constitutional rights.

These situations are being explored as more inmates protest. It was reported that Warden Winston E. Moore fired fifteen guards and received the resignation of one hundred others. In Prince Georges' County, Maryland, Sheriff Dan Edward Ansell is said to have started proceedings in firing the warden of the county jail, John Shall Cross, who has been accused of twenty three violations of regulations. His deputy John Garner was dismissed and charged with seven violations. In some areas corruptness of government encourages corruptness of penal institutions. Racially tense districts have been reported to have Ku Klux Klan and other hate oriented organizations infiltrating law enforcement agencies in jails.

Penal institutions need more man power. They need more competent men and women working on administrative staffs. Many jails are in need of new paint jobs and even remodeling. Food and health conditions need to be investigated by local officials. More medical care should be available to inmates. In many areas there need to be new prisons built on subdivisions, added on to those presently existing to solve the problem of overcrowded jails. In an upper Marlboro, Maryland jail there is a capacity for 115 prisoners but it presently holds 230. The Hyattsville jail in Maryland has a capacity for 25 prisoners but holds 50.

Inmates need to be educated on the evils of drug abuse and medically treated for drug addiction. There are presently many arts and crafts work shops in prisons. Lorton inmates presented a display of their work to the "outside world" earlier last year. They have a very talented group called the Inner Voices (who sing and dramatize relevant situations). Prisoners also make license plates, shoes, knitted goods, do laundry, process tobacco (in many southern areas prisoners are forced to work on plantations as slaves), and reupholster

furniture. These are skills for which the prison institutions are paid so many million dollars a year, not the inmates. Inmates should be taught not only mechanized skills but also mental skills so that they can, perhaps, continue their education through college (if they have not already done so). Tom Lewis, one of the nine radicals sentenced to two years for burning draft cards, is presently displaying art work at McGill University in Montreal. Prisoners have talents just as non-prisoners and should be given an opportunity to display them.

Many prisoners seek an end to restrictions. In Prince George's County, Maryland, Sheriff Ansell has permitted prisoners to extend visiting time from two days a week to six days a week. He has allowed phone calls once a week if made in prison cells. Some prisons are permitting inmates to present their own talent shows.

The La Mesa State penitentiary in Tijuana, Mexico is referred to as having a fiesta atmosphere. At this establishment women are allowed to spend time with prisoners for several days and prisoners are allowed to have pets. Children are allowed to live inside prison walls with their mothers. Those who dislike prison meals are allowed to cook their own food in prison motel rooms. Those who can afford it live in private suites or live five to a room. There are clothing stores, food stores, and restaurants. There are no prison uniforms and one can wear what he wishes.

In the United States a program is starting with halfway houses and youth centers. People living in halfway houses are allowed to work in the day as long as they report to officials at the homes where they stay. Members of Lorton's youth center are allowed to leave the prison and go home on weekends.

Penal institutions need reforms so they can become corrective institutions preparing inmates in a manner so that they do not have to report back to a life of crime when released into society. They must not force undue circumstances on those placed under preventive detention awaiting trial. More money and staff are also needed.

There is however not only the need for the institutions to change but for society outside of the institution to change. Most of the people in the penal institutions are there because of crimes they have committed to exist in society (robbery, killing). Our society has an economic system which benefits the upper class and not the lower class. Therefore often those who steal are doing so to exist as they see others existing. Our society has displaced economic values, forcing most people to steal either because of need or creating an image of having something they don't. The fictitious circumstances which the media conveys help to produce a society of people with displaced but attractive values. We must take a look at the people outside penal institutions as well as those who are prisoners inside.



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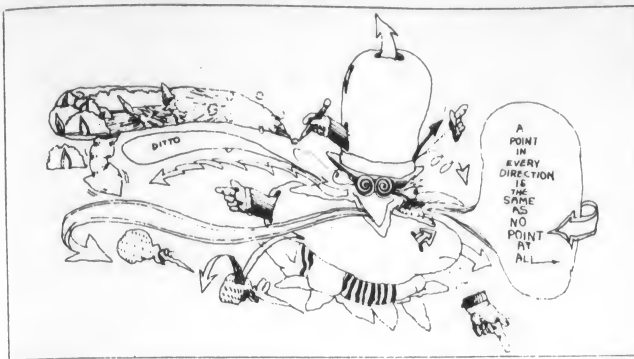
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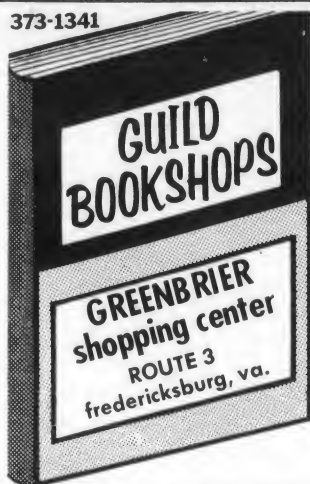
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